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REPORT OF THE ACC AD HOC INTER-AGENCY MEETING FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

(Geneva, 13 July 1993)

I. MATTERS BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION

1. The Ad Hoc Inter-agency Meeting for the International Conference on Population and Development held its second formal meeting at the United Nations Office at Geneva on 13 July 1993. The meeting was chaired by the Secretary-General of the Conference. The agenda of the meeting and the list of participants are contained in annexes I and II below.

2. The Meeting reviewed the status of the preparatory activities for the Conference. Particular attention was given to the results of the second session of the Preparatory Committee, which took place in New York from 10 to 21 May 1993.

3. The Meeting also discussed the contributions of the different units, programmes and organizations of the United Nations system to the preparation of the report on the review and appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action. The members of the Meeting who had not yet submitted their contributions to the Deputy Secretary-General of the Conference were reminded that the deadline was 15 August 1993.

4. The Secretary-General of the Conference invited members of the Meeting to prepare their contributions to the proposed action programme that would be adopted by the Conference in 1994. The contributions could be in the form of specific paragraphs, recommendations and/or examples of successful activities and should be sent to the Deputy Secretary-General of the Conference by 30 November 1993.

5. The Meeting agreed to meet again in 1994, around the time of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council.

II. DISCUSSIONS OF THE MEETING

A. Status of the preparations for the Conference

6. The Secretary-General of the Conference presented a general overview of the preparatory activities that had taken place since the first formal meeting of the Meeting on 6 July 1992. She made particular reference to her report to the Economic and Social Council on the subject (E/1993/49) and to the report of the

Preparatory Committee for the Conference on its second session (E/1993/69). She emphasized the high degree of consensus achieved on her proposal to draft a new action programme and on the structure of that document, the inclusion of quantitative and qualitative goals and objectives for the next 20 years, and the issues to be discussed at the Conference.

7. The Meeting was informed about a series of additional activities that were being organized in relation to the Conference. Although those activities were not part of the official preparatory process, their scope and contents were expected to contribute significantly to the ground work of the Conference. Among them were a series of round tables and several subregional meetings complementing the regional population conferences.

8. The Secretary-General of the Conference highlighted seven special issues that, in her view, deserved particular attention at the Conference in 1994:

(a) Achievement of sustained economic growth, needed to raise the standard of living, particularly of the poor, without compromising the quality of life of future generations;

(b) Strategies and action needed in the area of reproductive rights and reproductive health;

(c) Elimination of illegal and unsafe abortions, a sensitive and polemic issue that needed to be addressed in the context of maternal health;

(d) Empowerment of women and male responsibilities;

(e) International migration;

(f) Resource mobilization;

(g) Goals and objectives for the next 20 years.

9. The Meeting was informed about the notable participation of non-governmental organizations in the preparatory process for the Conference. A number of such organizations were invited to participate in and contribute to the deliberations of the six expert group meetings that were convened as part of the substantive preparations for the Conference. Many of them also participated in the regional population conferences. A total of 332 organizations were accredited to the second session of the Preparatory Committee, held in May 1993; many of them participated in the session, together with 69 other non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. The Secretary-General of the Conference had encouraged national Governments to include national non-governmental organizations in their delegations to the Conference.

B. Review and appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action

10. The Deputy Secretary-General of the Conference informed the Meeting about the status of the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the progress made in achieving the goals and objectives of the World Population Plan of Action. The report would be made available to the Preparatory Committee at its third session and would be one of two main documents to be submitted to the Conference in September 1994. The report would contain a general assessment of the Plan but would focus on a set of 27 issues that were recommended by the Meeting at its first formal meeting in July 1992. The document would discuss both achievements and failures, in order to highlight the major lessons learned from the implementation of the Plan of Action. The results of the review and appraisal would provide important substantive support to the set of recommendations that the Preparatory Committee would formulate at its third session in April 1994. Members of the Meeting who had not yet submitted their contributions to the report were reminded to do so no later than 15 August 1993.

C. Contributions of members of the Meeting to the preparatory activities of the Conference

11. Each member of the Meeting participating in the meeting made a brief presentation on the activities that had been carried out or were being planned by the organization he/she was representing as its contribution to the preparatory activities of the Conference. For example, the representative of the World Health Organization (WHO) reported that WHO was organizing a scientific meeting on abortion. WHO also intended to provide more insight on the impact of human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS), explore in greater detail the health aspects associated with both internal and international migration, and make specific suggestions in relation to the goals and objectives of the Conference. The representative of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) informed the Meeting that ECE was planning to organize a brief consultation among its member States before the third session of the Preparatory Committee. The Division for the Advancement of Women of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development announced that it was organizing a seminar on urban women to be held at Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, from 22 to 25 November 1993; and that the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women would examine articles of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women which were related to population matters. The representative of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) offered to contribute to the preparation of materials on migration. He also indicated that the preparatory work and the Conference itself were good opportunities to address the link between poverty and population growth and that ILO could contribute its experience and expertise on that matter. The representative of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) noted that human settlements and urban problems were environmental problems and that therefore the Centre could contribute on those issues. The representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) informed the Meeting about the new orientation that UNESCO had planned to provide to its population education programmes. The representatives of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) referred to

the contributions of their organizations to the alleviation of poverty and the improvement of the quality of life. Several participants also informed the Meeting about their organizations' plans to publicize their activities to disseminate information about the Conference.

D. Contributions of members of the Meeting to the proposed action programme that will be adopted by the Conference

12. The Meeting was informed about the status of the preparations for the proposed action programme that would be adopted by the Conference in 1994. The secretariat of the Conference, on the basis of the guidance provided by the Preparatory Committee at its second session, was preparing an annotated outline of the action programme. The outline would be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session. The final version of the action programme would be considered and negotiated by the Preparatory Committee at its third session in April 1994. The sources for the preparation of the outline and the action programme were many, but the Conference secretariat would utilize particularly the results of the six expert group meetings and the five regional population conferences, as well as the discussions of the Preparatory Committee, the results of the United Nations Seventh Population Inquiry among Governments and the recent monitoring reports on population trends, policies and multilateral population assistance. The Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General of the Conference acknowledged the participation of members of the Meeting in the expert group meetings, the regional population conferences and the discussions at the sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference, and their positive contributions to those activities and to the review and appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action. The Meeting was informed that if any of the participants would like to make additional specific contributions to the preparation of the proposed action programme, such contributions would be most helpful if they were in the form of specific paragraphs, recommendations or examples of successful activities. The draft version of the proposed action programme should be finalized by the end of 1993 so that it could be made available by mid-February 1994. Contributions should be sent to the Deputy Secretary-General of the Conference no later than 30 November 1993.

E. Other matters

13. The Meeting was informed that the Economic and Social Council, at its current session, was discussing the results of the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference and the possibility of extending the duration of the third session from two to three weeks.

14. The Meeting agreed to have its third formal meeting in 1994, around the time of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council.

Annex I

AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

2. Overview of the preparatory activities and arrangements for the International Conference on Population and Development.

3. Inter-agency participation in the review and appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action.

4. Contributions of members of the Meeting to the preparatory activities of the Conference.

5. Contributions of members of the Meeting to the preparation of the proposed action programme to be adopted by the Conference.

6. Other matters.

Annex II

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

United Nations

Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development	Mr. John Mathiason
United Nations Children's Fund	Ms. Abeeda Khan
United Nations Development Programme	Mr. Ariel Français
United Nations Development Fund for Women	Ms. Marjorie Thorpe
United Nations Environment Programme	Mr. Salih M. Osman
United Nations Population Fund	Mr. Hirofumi Ando
Economic Commission for Europe	Mr. Miroslav Macura
United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)	Mr. Pietro Garau

Specialized agencies

International Labour Organisation	Mr. E. Kenneth Andoh Mr. A. S. Oberai
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Mr. Alain Marcoux
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	Ms. Serim Timur
World Health Organization	Dr. Hu Ching-li Dr. Yuji Kawaguchi Dr. T. Türgen Dr. L. Mehra Ms. Odile Frank
International Fund for Agricultural Development	Mr. Atiqur Rahman

Secretariat of the International Conference on Population and Development

Dr. Nafis Sadik
Secretary-General of the Conference and Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund

Mr. Joseph Chamie
Deputy Secretary-General of the Conference and Officer-in-Charge, Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis

Mr. Jyoti Shankar Singh
Executive Coordinator of the Conference and Director, Technical and Evaluation Division, United Nations Population Fund

Mr. Germán A. Bravo-Casas
Deputy Executive Coordinator of the Conference and Coordinator, World Population Conference Implementation, Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis

Mr. David Payton
Senior Adviser of the Conference